

Office of the Secretary, Commerce

§0.735-19

through or in connection with his Government employment and which has not been made available to the general public.

(c) *Coercion.* An employee shall not use his Government employment to coerce, or give the appearance of coercing, a person to provide financial benefit to himself or another person, particularly one with whom he has family, business, or financial ties.

(d) *Disclosure of restricted information.* No employee shall divulge restricted commercial or economic information, or restricted information concerning the personnel or operations of any Government agency, or release any such information in advance of the time prescribed for its authorized release.

(e) *Discrimination.* No employee, acting in his official capacity, shall, directly or indirectly, authorize, permit, or participate in any act or course of conduct which, on the ground of race, color, creed, national origin, or sex, excludes from participation, denies any benefit to, or otherwise subjects to discrimination any person under any program or activity administered or conducted by the Department or one of its units, or such employee. (See Department Order 195.)

§0.735-16 Indebtedness.

(a) An employee shall pay each just financial obligation in a proper and timely manner, especially one imposed by law such as Federal, State, or local taxes. For purposes of this section, "a just financial obligation" means one acknowledged by the employee or reduced to judgment by a court, and "in a proper and timely manner" means in a manner which, in the view of the Department, does not, under the circumstances, reflect adversely on the Government as his employer.

(b) In the event of dispute between an employee and an alleged creditor, this section does not require the Department to determine the validity or amount of the disputed debt.

§0.735-17 Gambling, betting, and lotteries.

An employee shall not participate while on Government-owned or leased property or while on duty for the Government, in any gambling activity in-

cluding the operation of a gambling device, in conducting a lottery or pool, in a game for money or property or in selling or purchasing a numbers slip or ticket. However, this section does not preclude activities

(a) Necessitated by an employee's law enforcement duties, or

(b) Under section 3 of Executive Order 10927 (relating to solicitations conducted by organizations composed of civilian employees or members of the armed forces among their own members for organizational support or for benefit or welfare funds for their own members) and similar agency-approved activities.

§0.735-18 General conduct prejudicial to the Government.

(a) *General policy.* Officers and employees of the Federal Government are servants of the people. Because of this, their conduct must, in many instances, be subject to more restrictions and to higher standards than may be the case in certain private employments. They are expected to conduct themselves in a manner which will reflect favorably upon their employer. Although the Government is not particularly interested in the private lives of its employees, it does expect them to be honest, reliable, trustworthy, and of good character and reputation. They are expected to be loyal to the Government, and to the department or agency in which they are employed.

(b) *Specific policy.* An employee shall not engage in criminal, infamous, dishonest, immoral, or notoriously disgraceful conduct, or other conduct prejudicial to the Government.

(c) *Regulations applicable to public buildings and grounds.* Each employee is responsible for knowing and complying with regulations of the General Services Administration and of the Department of Commerce applicable to public buildings and grounds.

§0.735-19 Reporting undue influence to superiors.

Each employee shall report to his superior any instance in which another person inside or outside the Federal Government uses or attempts to use undue influence to induce, by reason of his official Government position,